

organization's apparatus exposed to the police they could hardly make any move. Therefore, they had to choose between two alternatives: either to start building the organization anew or to switch from terrorist politics to mass struggle. The issue was finally settled in favor of the latter against the protests of a couple adventurers who still insisted that reprisals should be carried against the oppressive authorities.<sup>24</sup> It is significant to note here that George Habash was the first among his companions to repudiate the old line once he preached. It is believed that this change of heart did not come all of a sudden. Habash was having some second thoughts about the activities of the Kata'ib as early as Summer 1950. In one of the meetings of the leadership, according to Jihad Dhahi, Habash complained that the movement was making only little headway among the masses. Indeed he went so far as to ask if there was not opportunity for greater success by other means.<sup>25</sup>

It was only natural with the underground organization exposed and the hard core militants detained that George Habash should repudiate terrorist adventurism in favor of the organization of mass struggle. By no means all of the Kata'ibists went that route. The political views of the adventurers pulled them in a different direction which need not concern

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<sup>24</sup> Statement by anonymous, personal interview, June 28, 1970.

<sup>25</sup> Statement by Jihad Dhahi, personal interview, December 28, 1968.